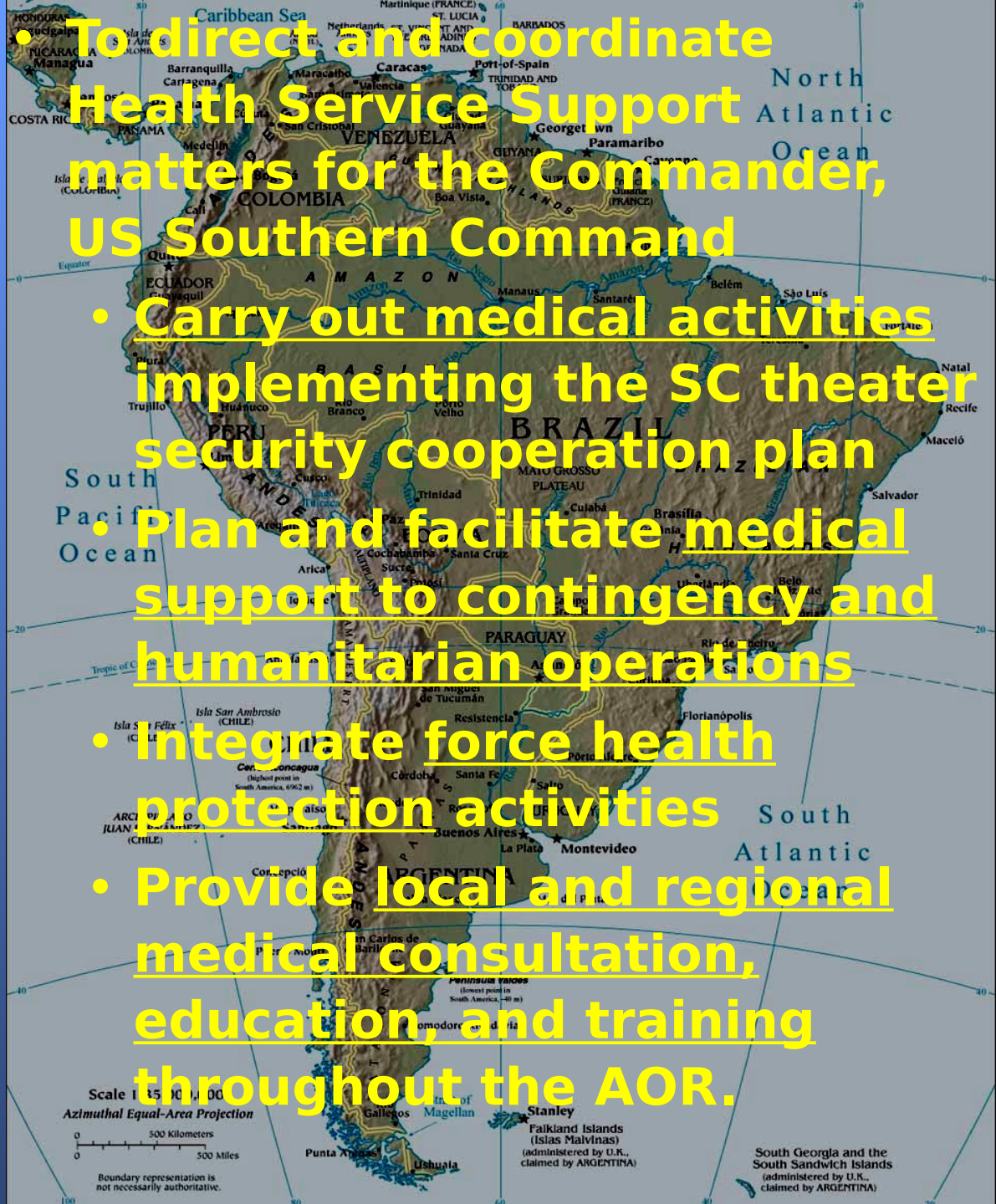
HEALTHCARE CHALLENGES IN THE SOUTHCOM AOR

OFFICE OF THE COMMAND SURGEON
United States Southern Command

Col. Miguel A. Montalvo USAF MC FS
Command Surgeon

SURGEON' S MISSION

- To direct and coordinate Health Service Support matters for the Commander, US Southern Command
  - Carry out medical activities implementing the SC theater security cooperation plan
  - Plan and facilitate medical support to contingency and humanitarian operations
  - Integrate force health protection activities
  - Provide local and regional medical consultation, education, and training throughout the AOR.



CLASSIFICATION:

COMMAND SURGEON'S STRATEGIC GOALS

- **Improve Medical Support to Forward Operating Locations**
  - **Ensure US forces stationed in SOUTHCOM AOR have the best possible medical care**
- **Health Services Support to the Detainee Operations at JTF-GTMO**
- **Aggressively assist the Colombian Military in developing Doctrine and Health Services Support structure to their combat forces**
- **Improve Disease Monitoring and Foster Information Sharing on Emerging Infectious Diseases**

CLASSIFICATION:

COMMAND SURGEON'S Priority Missions

- **Health Services Support to the Detainee Operations at JTF-GTMO**
- **Aggressively assist the Colombian Military in developing Doctrine and Health Services Support structure to their combat forces**

CLASSIFICATION:

Healthcare Challenges

- Related to Current Contingency Operations
- Related to Schedule Exercises
- Related to In Country Permanent DoD personnel

MEDICAL OPERATIONS COLOMBIA

CLASSIFICATION:

COLOMBIA: Three Missions Different Objectives

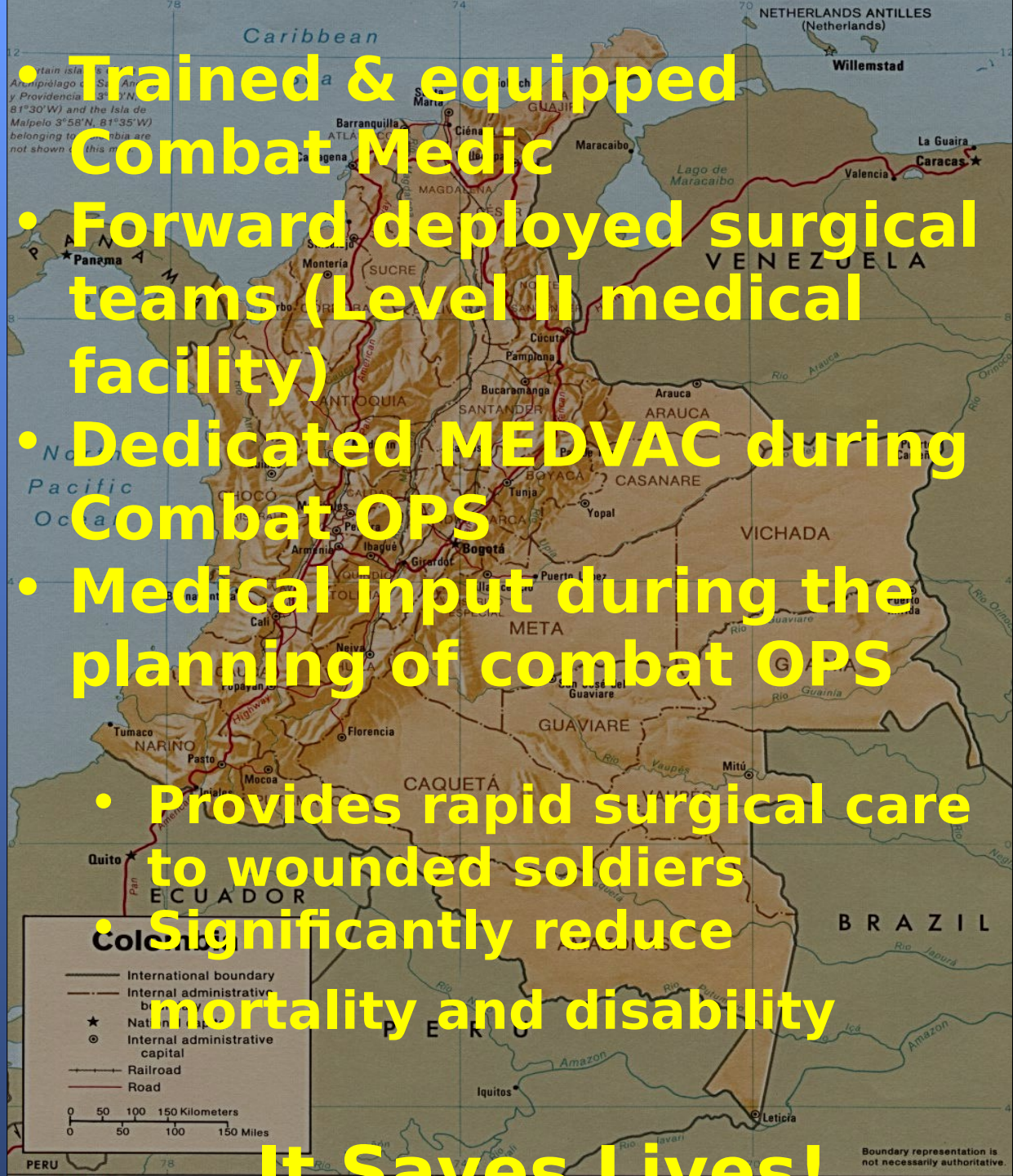
- To assist the COLMIL to develop a Medical Component capable of providing HSS to their combat forces
- ISS Mission: FST support to Special Forces
- SRS Mission

CLASSIFICATIO

KEY ELEMENTS for SUCCESS

- Trained & equipped Combat Medic
- Forward deployed surgical teams (Level II medical facility)
- Dedicated MEDVAC during Combat OPS
- Medical input during the planning of combat OPS

- Provides rapid surgical care to wounded soldiers
- Significantly reduce mortality and disability



CLASSIFICATION:

It Saves Lives!

ISS Mission: FST support to Special Forces

- Force Health Protection
  - Protective Measures (Malaria)
- In Country CASEVAC & Strategic Air Vac out of country when needed

Colombia

CLASSIFICATIO

JTF-GTMO DETAINEE MEDICAL OPS

- Detainee Hospital
  - Level I, II & III for Detainees
- USNH
  - Treats All JTF Members
  - Referral Facility for Detainees

CLASSIFICATION:

U. S. Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

- CO / JTF Surgeon
- HSS to JTF personnel
- Facility:
  - Built 1956
  - 11 Beds (Expands to 25)
  - 2 Nursery Beds
  - 3 Operating Rooms
  - 3 Dental DTR’s

Capabilities

- Primary Care Clinic/ER/Peds/Int Med/Dental
- General Surgery/Ortho/Ob-Gyn
- Behavioral Health: Psychiatrist, Social Worker, Counseling And Assistance Center (CAAC)
- Occupational Health/Preventive Medicine
- Ancillary: Lab, X-ray, Pharmacy, Optometry, PT
- Tele-radiology

CLASSIFICATION:

Detention Hospital

Mission

- **Health services to the detainee population.**
- **Safety and Security First.**
- **Quality Clinical Outcomes.**

- **The Detainee medical mission emphasis has shifted**
  - **High inpatient census / multiple orthopedic surgeries & rehab**
  - **to an outpatient focus**

CLASSIFICATION

Healthcare Challenges

- Schedule Exercises
  - MEDRETES
    - Injuries
    - Reliable medical information
    - Patient Movement out of the AOR (Air Vac)
      - Is it needed in all instances
      - Can other Countries be used

Healthcare Challenges

- In Country Permanent DoD personnel
  - Physicals for AD personnel
  - CONUS Appointments
  - In Country Routine Care (Medical & Dental)
  - Ambulance Issue in some countries
  - Medical Clearance: AD, Reserve & Families

UNITED STATES
SOUTHERN COMMAND
U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND HEADQUARTERS

QUESTIONS?